



Roxanne J. Chang, JD, MS LLP
Attorney and Counselor
Limited Licensed Psychologist

P.O. Box 6090 • Plymouth, MI 48170 • Phone and Fax#: (734) 451-6850 • Email: roxjchang@yahoo.com

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- Via Facsimile Only -

Representative Paul Condino
N0799 House Office Building
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Re: House Bills 5186-5188

Dear Representative Condino:

First, I would like to thank you for your interest in House Bills 5186-5188. These bills target and limit opportunities for guardians and/or conservators to financially exploit vulnerable adults.

House Bill 5186 is important to ensure that conservators are appointed for those individuals who do not have a durable power of attorney in place and are in need of financial assistance. Often times, guardians appointed are able to access income and assets of the individual. This bill will ensure that all those who have an Estate will have a Conservator appointed, by which the Conservator will have to account to the Probate Court.

House Bill No. 5187 requires conservators to seek court approval prior to placing a mortgage, pledge or other lien on a protected person's property. Placing a mortgage, pledge or other lien on real property can result in significant consequences, including depleting the equity of the property next to nothing. Conservators are already required to obtain court approval prior to selling a home. Requiring conservators to seek court approval for a mortgage, pledge or lien, nicely complements this requirement.

House Bill No. 5188 states probate judges should require conservators to serve with bond, but also gives probate judges discretion in imposing a bond. This assists in providing protection to the individual and their Estate should any misconduct, mismanagement or exploitation of the Estate.

I therefore recommend that you support House Bills 5186-5188. I hope you find these comments helpful. Thank you again for your consideration in the above matters.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roxanne J. Chang'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'R' and a long, sweeping tail.

Roxanne J. Chang